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18: February 1954

MEMORANDUM FOR : Assistant Director for Research and Reports

ATTENTION : Chief, Geography Division

SUBJECT : GIA/RR-G-11: Physical and Cultural Geography

REFERENCES

a. Memorandum from RQM/OIS to CRR/Geog. dated 7 January 1953, Subject: Area Study of Chinese Provinces

b. K-9773

- 1. In October 1953 we received from CRR, Geography Division a comprehensive study on the Physical and Cultural Geography of West China, prepared in response to our request for a general area study on the provinces of Tsinghai, Kansu, Sikang and Northwestern Szechuan. This study was gratefully received by the interested CS staffs and area deaks who will use it for long-range planning. We appreciate your cooperation and assistance in preparing the report and we are passing on to you certain specific comments and suggestions, made by members of the CS operational staffs, which we believe will interest you. Some of these comments pertain to the report as it answers the need for which it was requested; others suggest an expansion of the study to make it serve the needs of officers engaged in planning detailed clandestine operations as well as the long-range planner.
- 2. As to the manner of presentation of the material in the report, one officer commented that the photographs were the best part of the study and more photographs, if available, would be of great value. Shortening of the description of geography and topography, in his opinion would not detract from the study—particularly if proper topographic maps and photographs could be substituted. He felt that such things as topography, vegetation, clothing, etc. are better presented by photographs than by written text. The same person felt that a weak feature of the study was the map, which included too much on one map. He felt that it would have been better

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to have a

226

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to have a series of small maps, approximately page-size or double page-size, showing separately the major to ographic features, we asso of communication, ethnic groups and languages, populate to the style agricultural and nomadic regions, etc. These maps cours we say, lamented by inclusion of references to the standard smalles are topographic maps for the areas (1:100,000 or resonant applications maps of particular value which might to readily taken to

SMALL SCALE 1:100,000 for N.CAINA

- 3. As to the content of the study, adoptional information performs touched would be valuable for specific command care plant and support (although this need was not invited in a lingual request). Sime of the specific points with a significant at the me taile treatment weres (a) Confission etter e an approx If available, information on what kind associa e with these antagonistic progation, it is so (b) Distings whire characteristics of values types of and The (c) Things to avoid page 63, (i) with a (e) More information on canadans what the loss of a travel, and what the, carry, what animals a per audia), uvers e says saista, seasural acti to (f) Diseases in the area, not a running of the taaffect the local population but from the joint of view of campa to an individual travelling in the area who have a second of the cal facilities and reople's attitude count medical and selection cal clotning (what can be procured breakly and what the day to what extent does clothing distinguish the area from which and to vidual has come. (h) Mediums of exchange and barter items
- the type normally included in the sand b studies, where we understand are now being prepared in your diffice. With a slightly different slant, therefore, this detailed data might be digressive in most of the studies prepared for CS operational support for the area. In short, anything that a person well have to know to stable him to travel in an area, or be absorbed into the smally life of area without being conspicuous or running around of security cents or other internal regulations, might well be included in a study of this nature.
- 5. One of the greatest handicars, from the research standpoint, is the frequent inability to justify the researcher's need to know the thoughts in the mind of the operations of fiver who

requests an area



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requests an area study, in order to direct research along the lines that will prove most useful. We recognize the difficulties which you may often experience due to the lack of information as to the exact purposes for which the study is required. Consequently we are making every effort to obtain more specific and detailed requests which will reflect, in so far as possible within the bounds of security, the use to which the study is to be put.

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Chief, ROWCLS

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